

WO 2005/028006

PCT/AU2004/001316

- 31 -

CLAIMS

1. A medication holder for storing a medication container containing a therapeutic agent, the medication holder comprising:  
a housing, the housing including a first wall defining a cavity dimensioned  
5 to receive and enclose, at least in part, a medication container; and  
a second wall abutting the first wall and moveable relative thereto;  
wherein the second wall may be moved reversibly between a first closed position and a second open position, the second open position providing or facilitating access to a medication discharge outlet of the medication container, wherein the cavity is  
10 sealed against ingress of moisture or other contaminants when the second wall is in the first closed position.
2. The medication holder of claim 1, further comprising the medication container positioned in the cavity.
3. The medication holder of claim 2, wherein the first wall defines a bore  
15 dimensioned to receive the medication canister and the second wall seals the bore in the closed position.
4. The medication holder of claim 3, wherein the bore has an opening at or around one end, the opening closed by the second wall in the second closed position.
5. The medication holder of claim 4, wherein the first wall is configured to  
20 provide a sealed recess or recesses to hold one or more additional medication canisters.
6. The medication holder of claim 4, wherein the first wall is an inner wall, the second wall is an outer wall in a sleeved relationship to the inner wall and the walls are slidable relative to each other to position the second wall in the first and second positions.
7. The medication holder of claim 6, wherein the walls are slidable  
25 longitudinally relative to each other.
8. The medication holder of claim 6, wherein the walls are slidable circumferentially relative to each other.
9. The medication holder of claim 7, wherein the outer wall is slidable between the closed position adjacent an end region of the inner wall and an open position  
30 in a direction towards an opposite end region of the inner wall.
10. The medication holder of claim 6, wherein the outer wall is removed from

WO 2005/028006

PCT/AU2004/001316

- 32 -

the inner wall during operation.

11. The medication holder of claim 9, wherein the outer wall remains in a sleeved abutting position with the first wall in both the first and second positions.

12. The medication holder of claim 6, wherein sealing means is provided

5 between the inner wall and outer wall.

13. The medication holder of claim 12, wherein the sealing arrangements comprise one or more sealing rings positioned between the two walls.

14. The medication holder of claim 13, wherein positioning of the second wall in the second open position also opens an airflow pathway through the housing.

10 15. The medication holder of claim 14, wherein the airflow pathway is through the cavity.

16. The medication holder of claim 3, wherein the medication canister comprises a pressurised canister adapted to release a controlled dose of therapeutic agent.

17. The medication holder of claim 3, wherein the medication arrangement  
15 includes a mechanism activated by through flow of air inhaled by a user and includes a rotatable impeller.

18. The medication holder of claim 16, wherein one end of the bore is closed by a deformable membrane which may be depressed to activate the medication canister or arrangement.

20 19. The medication holder of claim 4, wherein the bore is closed at a second end by a rotatable end for activating the medication container to dispense a dose of therapeutic agent.

20. The medication holder of claim 19, wherein the rotatable end displaces the medication container against a seat to discharge a dose of medication.

25 21. The medication holder of claim 19, wherein the rotatable end dispenses a dose of medication into an airstream for inhalation.

22. The medication holder of claim 21, wherein operation of the rotatable end opens an airflow pathway through the housing.

23. The medication holder of claim 2, wherein the medication discharge outlet  
30 comprises a medication chute.

24. The medication holder of claim 23, wherein an airflow pathway passes

WO 2005/028006

PCT/AU2004/001316

- 33 -

through the medication chute.

25. The medication holder of claim 24, wherein the medication chute moves between a storage position and a discharge position.

26. The medication holder of claim 25, wherein the medication chute moves by  
5 pivoting around a transverse axis.

27. The medication holder of claim 25, wherein the medication chute moves by pivoting around a longitudinal axis.

28. The medication holder of claim 25, wherein the medication chute is resiliently biased towards the discharge position.

10 29. The medication holder of claim 28, wherein the medication chute is resiliently biased by a spring arrangement.

30. The medication holder of claim 25, wherein the medication chute is mechanically urged to the discharge position by movement of the second wall activating a gear mechanism.

15 31. The medication holder of claim 31, wherein the gear mechanism is a rack and pinion arrangement.

32. The medication holder of claim 25, wherein the medication chute includes an auxiliary air inlet.

33. The medication holder of claim 6, wherein the medication container is  
20 frangible and sliding the second wall is adapted to rupture the medical container to release the therapeutic agent to an air pathway through the cavity.

34. The medication holder of claim 33, wherein the therapeutic agent is methoxyfluorane.

35. The medication holder of claim 2, further comprising attachment means for  
25 attaching the housing to an item such as sports bag or to a user.

36. The medication holder of claim 35, wherein the attachment means is an eye and strap arrangement.

37. The medication holder of claim 35, wherein the attachment means is a band adapted for positioning around the limb of a user or around a strap of a bag or similar.

30 38. The medication holder of claim 35, wherein the band is a wrist band.

39. The medication holder of claim 35, wherein the housing is fixed to the wrist

WO 2005/028006

PCT/AU2004/001316

- 34 -

band by a pivot fitting which permits the housing to be rotated between a first position wherein it is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of a user's arm and a second position wherein it is substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis.

40. A portable medication holder for a medication container storing a liquid agent, the medication holder comprising:

a housing, the housing including a first wall forming a cavity dimensioned to receive and enclose the medication container, at least in part;

a second wall co-operating with the first wall to seal the cavity in a first closed position, the second wall moveable to a second open position to provide access to a medication outlet of the housing;

opening means for opening the medication container, whereby the liquid agent is provided to an air pathway through the housing; and

evaporation means in communication with the air pathway for enhancing evaporation of the liquid agent.

41. The portable medication holder of claim 40, further including the medication container which is frangible.

42. The portable medication holder of claim 41, wherein the evaporation means comprises an evaporation surface.

43. The portable medication holder of claim 42, wherein the evaporation surface is configured to provide an increased surface area for contact between the liquid agent and air in the air pathway.

44. The portable medication holder of claim 43, wherein the evaporation surface is formed as an evaporation panel or panels or as a grid.

45. The portable medication holder of claim 40, wherein the evaporation means provides a tortuous path for airflow.

46. The portable medication holder of claim 40, wherein the evaporation means is formed from an absorbent material.

47. The portable medication holder of claim 46, wherein the absorbent material is configured to create a serpentine pathway for airflow.

48. The portable medication holder of claim 41, wherein the evaporation means is located within the medication container.

WO 2005/028006

PCT/AU2004/001316

- 35 -

49. The portable medication holder of claim 41, wherein the frangible container is an ampoule or vial.
50. The medication holder of claim 41, wherein the frangible container includes a frangible seal or seals.
- 5 51. The medication holder of claim 41, wherein the opening means comprises impact means adapted to be urged into direct or indirect contact with the frangible container and thereby release the medication.
52. The medication holder of claim 51, wherein the impact means is a striker, piston or similar.
- 10 53. The medication holder of claim 52, wherein the striker, piston or similar is manually operated.
54. The medication holder of claim 52, wherein the striker, piston or similar is automatically operated by movement of the second wall.
55. The medication holder of claim 41, wherein the opening means includes  
15 one or more punches to penetrate the frangible vial.
56. The medication holder of claim 40, wherein the opening means includes a receiving seat to engage a screw-top lid of a medication container to facilitate its removal and discharge of contents.
57. The medication holder of claim 41, wherein the second wall forms a sleeve  
20 engaged with the first wall and slidable relative thereto.
58. The medication holder of claim 56, wherein the slidable sleeve comprises a cap.
59. The medication holder of claim 57 or claim 58, wherein the sleeve slides longitudinally.
- 25 60. The medication holder of claim 57 or claim 58, wherein the sleeve slides circumferentially around a cylindrical first wall.
61. The medication holder of claim 57, wherein the medication outlet includes a medication chute which may comprise a mouthpiece or nosepiece.
62. The medication holder of claim 61, wherein the medication chute is  
30 mounted to move between a storage position and a discharge position.

WO 2005/028006

PCT/AU2004/001316

- 36 -

63. The medication holder of claim 62, wherein the medication chute rotates around a transverse axis.

64. The medication holder of claim 62, wherein the medication chute rotates around a longitudinal axis.

5 65. The medication holder of claim 62, wherein the medication chute is mounted to move linearly between the storage and discharge positions.

66. The medication holder of claim 61, wherein the medication chute includes an auxiliary air pathway, the auxiliary air pathway adapted for digital occlusion by a user.

67. The medication holder of claim 41, wherein movement of the second wall  
10 to the second open position opens a primary air pathway.

68. The medication holder of claim 41, wherein the primary air pathway is manually opened by operation of opening means.

69. The medication holder of claim 68, wherein the opening means comprises a rotatable valve, moveable between closed and open positions.

15 70. The medication holder of claim 41, further including valve means for providing substantially unidirectional airflow through the air pathway.

71. The medication holder of claim 70, wherein the valve means comprises one or more one-way valves adapted to allow intake air to flow through the housing.

72. The medication holder of claim 71, further comprising an outlet valve for  
20 directing expired air outwardly of the housing.

73. The medication holder of claim 72, further comprising a filter to absorb expired medication, the filter connected downstream of the outlet valve.

74. The medication holder of claim 40 or claim 49, wherein the medication is methoxyfluorane.

25 75. A medication holder for storing and dispensing a therapeutic agent, the medication holder comprising:

a housing including an inner wall forming a cavity configured as a bore;

an outer wall formed as a sleeve to encircle the first wall for at least a portion of its length;

30 actuator means for actuating dispensing of the therapeutic agent, the actuator means sealing one end of the cavity;

WO 2005/028006

PCT/AU2004/001316

- 37 -

a pressurised container housing the therapeutic agent and positioned in the cavity; and

a medication chute moveable between a stowed position and a deployed position;

5            wherein the first wall and second wall co-operate to seal the cavity to resist ingress of moisture and other contaminants and the second wall is slidable relative to the first wall to provide access to and facilitate deployment of the medication chute.

76.            The medication holder of claim 75, wherein the second wall is slidable longitudinally and remains in contact with the first wall.

10 77.            The medication holder of claim 75, wherein the second wall slides circumferentially to the open position.

78.            The medication holder of claim 77, wherein sliding of the second wall drives a rack and pinion arrangement to move the medication chute linearly.

79.            The medication holder of claim 75, wherein the actuator means is a pressure  
15 pad for urging the medication canister downwardly against a discharge seat.

80.            The medication holder of claim 75, wherein the actuator means is a twist-top arrangement for activating a cam mechanism to displace the medication canister against the discharge seat.

81.            The medication holder of claim 75, wherein activation of the actuator  
20 means opens an air pathway through the cavity.

82.            A portable medication holder for holding and discharging a medication container holding a liquid agent, the portable medication holder comprising:

a housing including a first wall forming a chamber;

an air pathway passing through the chamber;

25            a second wall engaging the first wall, the second wall formed as a sleeve located around the first wall, the second wall moveable between a closed position in which the chamber and air pathway are sealed and an open position in the air pathway is open;

evaporation means to assist in evaporation of the liquid agent into air in the air pathway;

30            a medication discharge chute for directing the air pathway to a user;

opening means for opening the medication container; and

WO 2005/028006

PCT/AU2004/001316

- 38 -

the medication container located in the chamber or in fluid communication with the chamber.

83. The portable medication holder of claim 82, wherein the medication container is a vial, ampoule or canister and is frangible, at least in part.

5 84. The portable medication holder of claim 83, wherein the medication container stores methoxyfluorane.

85. The portable medication holder of claim 83, wherein the second wall is formed as a cover.

86. The portable medication holder of claim 83, wherein the opening means  
10 includes a striker adapted to open the medication container.

87. The portable medication holder of claim 86, wherein the striker is activated by sliding the second wall to the open position.

88. The portable medication holder of claim 83, wherein the opening means includes a punch to open a frangible seal in the container.

15 89. The portable medication holder of claim 82, wherein the opening means includes a seat to grip a screw cap or a bottle.

90. The portable medication holder of claim 82, wherein the evaporation means comprises a wick material.

91. The portable medication holder of claim 82, wherein the evaporation means  
20 comprises an evaporation plate or plates or a grid.

92. The portable medication holder of claim 82, wherein the evaporation means forms a serpentine or tortuous path as part of the air pathway.

93. The portable medication holder of claim 82, wherein the medication chute is rotatable between a stowed position and a deployed position.

25 94. The portable medication holder of claim 93, wherein the medication chute includes a gas line for delivering a respiratory gas.

95. The portable medication holder of claim 93, wherein the medication chute includes an auxiliary air inlet.

96. The portable medication holder of claim 82, further including one or more  
30 one-way valves in the intake air pathway to provide unidirectional inspiratory airflow.

97. The portable medication holder of claim 96, wherein the medication chute



WO 2005/028006

PCT/AU2004/001316

- 39 -

is in fluid connection with a one-way valve for expiratory air.

98. The portable medication holder of claim 97, wherein the medication chute is in fluid connection with a filter for removing medication from expired air with expiratory air.